

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING THE TEXAN



TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD | ELLINGTON FIELD JRB | HOUSTON, TX

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2013

What's Going to be Your Story?

CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS



Gen. Mark A. Welsh III
Chief of Staff

Happy New Year Airmen!

To those of you who spent the holidays deployed, thank you...and I'm sorry you weren't home with your families. I know you understand that what you're doing is important, but I also know that doesn't make the separation any easier. In these days where self-serving agendas seem to be on display everywhere we turn, your willingness to sacrifice for the good of our Nation and its citizens still inspires me.

Despite the budgetary uncertainty, the fiscal cliff, or whatever else time and circumstances throw at us, I believe 2013 will be a great year for our Air Force! We'll still be doing great work for the Nation, we'll still be coming to work with the greatest men and women on Earth, and we'll still be taking care of each other. And I know each of you will continue to look for new, innovative ways to make us an even better fighting force. It's a great time to be an Airman!

One of the greatest things about our Air Force is the remarkable heritage we share. As 2012 closed, one of our greatest living heroes "flew west" and

became a treasured memory. Colonel (ret.) Ralph Parr, a Double Ace and combat veteran of three wars, passed away peacefully on December 7th, at age 88. During the Korean War, in one remarkable 11 day/30 mission stretch, he scored ten confirmed kills and received the Distinguished Service Cross for actions during a particularly harrowing dogfight with 10 enemy MiGs. In Vietnam, he earned the Air Force Cross for extraordinary valor during the Battle of Khe Sanh. In all, he flew 641 combat missions and is the only American aviator to receive both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross. He also wore the Silver Star, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star and 41 Air Medals. We should all stand a little prouder because we follow in his footsteps.

I think we all share the responsibility to protect the legacy that Colonel Parr and so many others built. But the demographics of our Air Force have changed. Images, songs, stories, or "traditions" that are obscene, vulgar, or that denigrate some percentage of Airmen are not the things we value in that proud heritage. I'm a bit surprised by comments I've heard about the recent health and welfare inspection, suggesting it was an attack on fighter pilot culture, a 'witch hunt' to target specific organizations or individuals, or a response to a specific event. None of those comments are true. My intent was two-fold. First, if we're going to get serious about preventing sexual assault, we need to get serious about eliminating environments conducive to sexual harassment or unprofessional relationships. Both are leading indicators of sexual assault and other behavior

CSAF continued on page 2

THE TEXAN

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Cover:
National Guard Graphic by: Master Sgt. Sean Cowher / Released

2012 OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



Master Sgt. Courtney Hinson
147th Operations Group



Staff Sgt. Matthew Renteria
147th Operations Group



Senior Airman Michael Genaille
147th Operations Group

Congratulations to the 2012 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. The four individuals were nominated and selected as the OAY for the 147th Reconnaissance Wing. Airmen at the wing could be selected for one of four categories: airman for airman basic through senior airman, non-commissioned officer for staff and technical sergeants, senior non-commissioned officers for master, senior master, and chief master sergeants, and first sergeant for first sergeants at the wing. These exemplary individuals will compete at the state level in Austin during January UTA.

Not Pictured: Master Sgt. Malvin Baerga-Rivera, first sergeant. Baerga-Rivera was named the outstanding first sergeant of the year.

FINANCIAL SENSE

A Treasury mandate will soon require the DoD to pay all our military, civilian and retired customers by electronic funds transfer (EFT). This will also include all travel payments. Beginning March 1, 2013, all ANG members (regardless of status) must have an EFT account established in their DTS and RTS profiles. All DTS accounts accepted through the self-registration module on or after 01 Mar 2013 must include EFT information. Those that do not contain EFT Info should be rejected back to the member. A list of members who do not currently have EFT info in their DTS profile will be posted to the ANG Travel Pay CoP in the DTS folder. The name of the list is "ANG members with No EFT info in DTS". Please contact each member and have them add their EFT info by 28 Feb 13.

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STRESS LIFE, ~~THE UNIVERSE~~ AND EVERYTHING

By Maj. Thomas Judd
Chaplain

Life is stressful. Military life is even more stressful.

Last year service member suicides outnumbered combat deaths...again. There were 482 military suicides in 2012. The brass inside the beltway always tends to focus on deployments and blame "the war," but the numbers tell a different story. More than half of those who committed suicide had never deployed, and more than 85% had never seen combat. In other words, suicidal-level stresses come from much more than deployments.

Closer to Ellington, last month an article ran in the German magazine Spiegel which received zero exposure in the American media. You might not think this is a terribly noteworthy observation except that the article was titled, "The Woes of an American Drone Operator." Its 4000 words give us a glimpse into some of the day-to-day realities of

the Air Force's Predator community—a community, of course, which each of us directly or indirectly supports. More importantly, it delves with brutal honesty into several aspects of the RPA world we tend to not discuss: long shifts, poor manning, inaccurate intelligence, innocent casualties, friendly fire, relationship problems, PTSD, and so on. For everyone involved, the stress of the job was very real. For more than one crew member interviewed, the stresses were nearly incapacitating.

Speaking more broadly, high stress levels, moral questions, work frustrations, school stress, family problems and the like are NOT limited to aircrews or those who have deployed. No one's life is perfect. Everyone faces stress every day. Wearing the uniform only adds to that stress. Thankfully, not everyone's responses to stress are the same. With that in mind, however, most of us have been

trained to keep such a "stiff upper lip" that someone you encounter today or tomorrow could be wrestling with exactly these sorts of issues and you'd never know it. Perhaps even you are struggling in secret right now.

So what? My point in sharing these sobering stories is not to suggest that we all join hands, sing "Kum-ba-yah," and give ourselves warm fuzzies. We have more than enough pamphlets, programs, and PowerPoint presentations to remind us of the resources available to everyone. We don't need another CBT, wallet card, or cute cliché for commander's call. Enough. Seriously. What we need is much more basic.

We need a reminder that our uniform makes us family...and as many problems and imperfections as we have, families care for one another. Let this be our reminder. Take care of each other. You really can make a life and death difference.



From left: 147 Reconnaissance Wing member Staff Sgt. Mitchell Corbin, Katie James, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5619 commander Rene Guerrero. During a ceremony Dec. 19, Corbin was presented the VFW Life Saving Award for his actions in June 2012, when he rescued a woman trapped in a burning vehicle. Guerrero presented Corbin with the award, in addition to a lifetime membership with the VFW. Last fall, Corbin also received the Lone Star Medal of Honor and a proclamation from Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker proclaiming Oct. 14, 2012 Staff Sgt. Mitchell Corbin Day. (National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Cowher / Released)



First Sergeant Message: New Year Brings Opportunities for Growth and Development

By Master Sgt. Malvin Baerga-Rivera
147th Mission Support Group First Sergeant

Today's article focuses on understanding that there is a time and place for mentoring and embracing the challenges of professional and personal growth. Whether it's mission accomplishment, a new project, tasks or your chain of command is preparing for new challenges, it is essential we train and mentor all members in our organization to reach their fullest potential. I was meeting with several enlisted Airmen the other day who mentioned that their organization was only providing opportunities to grow professionally to high potentials. When I asked them why that was happening, they replied that budgets were still tight and the organization was primarily concerned about ensuring those high potential employees were retained. Big mistake – and as Airman we know it. So let's discuss why you want every Airman in your organization to have opportunities to grow professionally and personally. The best organizations want to retain all their employees, not

just those who they believe can move into leadership roles. An organization needs employees – good, well trained and engaged – at all levels of the organization for the organization to be a success. Focusing only on your high potentials will mean that you may have increased turnover at the lower levels. That's a problem. How do you do this? Certainly you can offer the opportunity to attend seminars, e-courses and conferences. But let's look at other options. Providing all Airmen stretch assignments is a great way to help them build new skills and increase their knowledge. Let's assume that your organization does an annual appreciation event. Why not have members from various groups join the team working on such a project? This gives individuals an opportunity to work on a key project in your organization and teaches them a variety of new skills. It also gives them the chance to have some visibility with individuals they may not have the chance to interact with otherwise. You might also offer the opportunity for Airmen within a depart-

ment to work together to suggest improvements in how the work is done. I have found that some supervisors never bother to ask Airmen how they might do the job better and you'll be surprised how many Airmen have thought of ways to increase efficiencies and effectiveness in getting the work done. What a great way to give these individuals visibility with the leadership team in your organization by having them work on ways to improve how work is done. And one more idea...why not offer Airmen the opportunity to learn about other organizations. Some Airmen never really understand what goes on outside of their own unit and never have the opportunity to learn how others work and what they contribute to the organization. Have your Airmen spend a few hours or a few weeks working in another department to learn about the operations from a different perspective, which provides another great way to expand skills and build knowledge of the organization. It is essential we train and mentor everyone in our organization to achieve our fullest potential.

ESOH CAMP INSPECTION

275 DAYS



Ms. Monalisa Norton
Family Readiness Program Manager

Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING - ELLINGTON FIELD JRB - HOUSTON, TEXAS



The 147th Reconnaissance Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Office provides a direct link between the commander and families. Family members can get information and help for a variety of issues, for more information contact the Family Readiness Program Manager.

Important Numbers and Services

Provided by: Monalisa Norton, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager

American Red Cross
Armed Forces Emergency Number
877-272-7337
www.redcross.org

Tricare Service Center
800-444-5445

Military One-Source
800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com

Veteran Affairs
www.va.gov

Air Force Crossroads
www.afcrossroads.com

NGB Family Program Online Community
www.jointservicessupport.org

Tricare Regional Office South
www.tricare.mil/TROSouth

Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation
www.txngfoundation.org

Military Spouse Center
www.military.com/spouse

United Concordia
800-866-8499
www.ucci.com

Employer Support of Guard and Reserves (ESGR)
800-336-4590
www.esgr.mil

Humana-Military
www.humana-military.com

National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
www.naccrra.org

Hope for Heroes
www.samaritan-counseling.org

Hero Bracelets
www.herobracelets.org

Kid's Area

Kids Health (Toddler to Teens)
www.kidshealth.org

Kids.gov
www.kids.gov

Kid's Space
www.kids-space.org

FEMA for Kids
www.fema.gov/kids

White House Kids Site
www.whitehouse.gov/kids

Texas Senate Kids
www.senate.state.tx.us/kids

Energy Kids Page
www.eia.doe.gov/kids

Texas Parks & Wildlife
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING DINING FACILITY

Saturday
12 January 2013

BBQ Chicken
Fried Catfish
Fried Okra
Macaroni and Cheese
Black-eyed Peas
Steamed Rice
Mustard Greens
Peas and Carrots
Cornbread
Assorted Salad & Desserts
Assorted Drinks

Sunday
13 January 2013

Baked Ham
Roast Beef
Rice Pilaf
Oven Brown Potatoes
Green Beans
Lima Beans
Mixed Vegetables
Assorted Salad & Desserts
Assorted Drinks

Shortline

Cheeseburger/Hamburger
Hot Wings
Grilled Chicken Sandwich
French Fries
Vegetable of the Day

Meal Price: \$4.55

CSAF
continued from page 2

and performance issues. Second, the Air Force succeeds because of the professionalism and discipline of our Airmen. We have a significant number of Airmen who feel they have to “go along to get along” by ignoring pornographic images, workplace comments, or other material that makes them uncomfortable. That’s simply not the Air Force we want to be. EVERY Airman is critically important...and every one of you deserves to be treated with respect. Anything less reflects a lack of discipline and a failure to honor our values. It also marginalizes great Airmen, degrades mission effectiveness and hurts unit morale. We simply can’t, and won’t, tolerate it. Of course, that’s easy for me to say...only you can make it reality. As always, I need your help.

In a couple of weeks, I’ll send you a CSAF Vector for 2013. In it, I’ll let you know where I think we’re headed in some key areas and also lay out a few things I think I owe you over the next year. Things like what the AF values for promotion (hint--the list starts with Job Performance!); my thoughts on performance reports and any required adjustments; etc. Thank you again for all you do, and for choosing to serve in our great Air Force. Don’t let the talk of sequestration distract you from the importance of what you do every day. We’ll still need to come to work in 2013 and we’ll continue to provide America with one of its greatest asymmetric advantages. It’s an honor to serve beside you.

GOT AIRPOWER...?!

Safety Shorts



ESOH CAMP PREP

- **Housekeeping**
- **Review Documentation - Spot Inspections/AF Form 55, etc.**
- **Know Safety Publications**
 - a. **AFI 91-202, USAF Mishap Prevention Program**
 - b. **AFI 91-203, AF Consolidated Occupational Safety**
 - c. **AFMAN 91-201, Explosive Safety Standards**
- **KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!**
- **DO YOUR PART!**

Defense Travel System

1. The JFTR (Joint Federal Travel Regulation) states a traveler must use the following guidelines when on official travel:

A. Uses an available contracted CTO (DTMO-contracted for DoD Services), or a GSA contracted TMC (when a contracted CTO is not available) for all official transportation requirements, or

B. Must contact the responsible Agency/Service designated official if there is not an available contracted CTO for the official travel. DoD travelers contact DTMO.

2. TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION POLICY

A. General. The least expensive, unrestricted economy/coach accommodation is the standard for all passenger transportation modes.

B. Travel Prudence/Stewardship of GOV'T Funds. A traveler must exercise the same care in incurring expenses as would a prudent person traveling on personal business at personal expense.

C. GSA City Pair Program/Airfares. See APP P. Contract city-pair program regulations are found in DTR 4500.9-R, Part I, Chapter 103, pars. A2 and B2.

D. Official Travel. Transportation procured and/or paid for by the GOV'T may be used only for the portion of a trip properly chargeable to the GOV'T. Any additional expense is the traveler's financial responsibility.

E. Usual Routing. Transportation professionals are typically aware of the 'usual routing' by which travelers are routed between locations.

1. The AO must justify travel other than by a usually traveled route.

2. More costly unjustified circuitous travel (e.g., personal travel detours from the usually traveled route) is the traveler's financial responsibility.

3. Travel documents must clearly show the official travel points and whether circuitous travel is for official or personal reasons.

4. Official travel locations must be identified and, if personal locations are shown, they must be clearly identified as personal/leave travel locations and state that any excess cost is paid by the traveler.



Ace in the Hole Retirees Association

President: James (Jim) Buchta
Vice President: James Hamm
Sect./Treas: Mildred Koehn

www.aceintheholeretirees.com
147th.retirees@gmail.com

GUARD FACTS

Did you know?

Tom Selleck, Norman Mailer and Charles Lindbergh are among the many famous people to serve in the National Guard.

OPSEC

Still and Motion Imagery

In accordance with Air Force and 147th Reconnaissance Wing Instructions, any visual information (VI) material generated or acquired by Air Force members, employees, or contractors in conducting official duties are the property of the United States Air Force. As such, these materials must be approved by the Public Affairs Office prior to release to the public.

For more information contact the
 147 RW Public Affairs Office.
 281-929-2662
147RW.PublicAffairs@ang.af.mil

Commanders Hotline

Ideas | Comments | Suggestions

929-2000



Judge Advocate

147 Reconnaissance Wing



UTA Weekends – 0800 - 1600

281-929-2199

147RW.JA@ang.af.mil

AMERICAN AIRMEN | SPIRITUAL WINGMEN



147 RECONNAISSANCE WING
 CHAPLAIN CORPS



DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2636

NON-DUTY HOURS: 281-929-2716

147RW.CHAPLAIN@ANG.AF.MIL

Alcoholism is Treatable!

Need Help?

Call 1-800-410-2560

Sexual Assault S.A.F.E. Helpline

1-877-995-5247

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING
 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE
 BLDG 1057, ROOM 236

MAJ GRETA COSTA
 929-2610

MSGT ANITA BLUE
 929-2210



TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE ON ISSUES INVOLVING
 DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Airman & Family READINESS PROGRAM

147TH RECONNAISSANCE WING - ELLINGTON FIELD JRB - HOUSTON, TEXAS



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